

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 5-14, 18, 23-26, 28, and 29 are pending. Claims 1, 7, and 24 are amended. Claims 2, 10, 15-17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 30, 31, and 32 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 19 was canceled in a previous amendment. Support for the amendment to Claim 1 can be found in now-canceled dependent Claims 2 and 21, for example. Support for the amendment to Claim 7 can be found in now-canceled dependent Claim 10, for example. Support for the amendment to Claim 24 is self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 15-17, 20, 22, 27, and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13, 14, 25, 26, 28, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Van der Plas (European Patent No. 985,342, herein "Van der Plas"). Claims 15, 16, 22, 27, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Wosmek (U.S. Patent No. 2,894,733, herein "Wosmek"). Claims 4, 12, 18, and 23 were allowed. Claims 10, 11, 21, and 24 were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form.

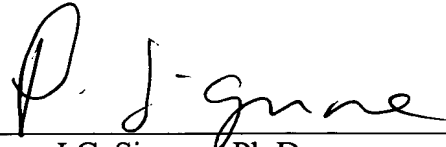
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 4, 12, 18, and 23 are allowed and that Claims 10, 11, 21, and 24 recite allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 15-17, 20, 22, 27, and 30-32, the rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13, 14, 25, 26, 28, and 29 as anticipated by Van der Plas, and the rejection of Claims 15, 16, 22, 27, and 30 as anticipated by Wosmek, Applicant respectfully submits that as Claims 15-17, 20-22, 27, and 30-32 are canceled, and independent Claims 1 and 7 are amended to incorporate the features of dependent claims indicated as reciting allowable subject matter, all of the above-noted rejections are overcome.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 43,922

Lee Stepina
Registration No. 56,837

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

PJS:LS\rl

I:\ATTY\LS\24S\244209US\244209US-AM-DUE-10-19-06.DOC